Chaotic and Random Responses of Ocean Structures: Analysis of Medium-Scale Experiment

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LONG-TERM GOAL

The long-term goal of the research is to develop a unified, systematic, reliability-based analysis and design methodology for nonlinear, dynamically sensitive ocean structural systems incorporating the influence of a full range of possible motions. The transition phenomena among various complex nonlinear motions including periodic, quasi-periodic, chaotic, noisy periodic, noisy chaotic and purely random responses, and their effects on extreme excursions and fatigue behavior of structural systems will be emphasized.

OBJECTIVES

The immediate objectives are: (1) to analyze the measured data of a medium-scale experiment conducted at the OSU Wave Research Laboratory on the dynamic responses of a nonlinear moored system; (2) to calibrate the predictive capabilities of the analytical models developed under this research project using the experimental results; and (3) to study the transition phenomena among various types of response motions via the parameter maps constructed from the experimental results complemented with analytical predictions.

APPROACH

The approach is to first focus on the analysis of the measured stochastic responses of the single-degree-of-freedom (SDOF) system using nonlinear system identification techniques developed earlier in this project to identify the ranges of the system parameters. Individual deterministic test results will then be examined to further pinpoint the system parameters. Experimental data from the continuous scan runs will then be analyzed to construct the nonlinear frequency-amplitude primary and secondary resonance response curves. The resulting nonlinear map will then be calibrated against analytical predictions using the system parameters identified earlier. Numerical results will be generated as needed to complete the frequency-amplitude parametric map to fully delineate the nonlinear system response behavior. A parallel systematic analysis will also be conducted on the multi-degree-of-freedom (MDOF) nonlinear system to determine the coupling effects among various motions. Numerical predictions from efficient stochastic algorithms developed earlier for time and probability domain analyses will be calibrated using experimental results.

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WORK COMPLETED

Selected SDOF and MDOF moored and free-floating system analytical models of physical structures corresponding to available experimental data from OSU and NFESC have been developed and examined [1, 2]. Numerical simulations and parametric studies of the deterministic and stochastic responses of these analytical models have been conducted. System parameters including added mass and damping coefficients have been identified for the moored-buoy and ship-roll models based on time-history and statistical comparisons of simulation data with preliminary experimental analysis results [3-5]. Transitions of nonlinear primary and secondary resonance responses of the SDOF model of the moored structures under narrow-band random excitations have been examined. Semi-analytical models of several transition routes and corresponding transition probabilities have been developed [6]. Data of the submerged moored-buoy system experiment for the SDOF surge-motion case have been analyzed. Stability regions of various nonlinear responses have been classified and estimated. Perturbation-induced transitions among coexisting characteristic responses have been identified and examined. Comparisons with analytical predictions are being conducted.

RESULTS

Semi-analytical probability models have been derived to describe inter- and intra-domain transitions in trajectories of the responses of the nonlinear system subjected to narrow-band excitations near the primary and secondary resonance regions [6]. The resulting predictions agree well with the corresponding time domain simulations. Comparisons of the analytical predictions and experimental results are being conducted.

Deterministic analytical and numerical predictions of resonance, sub-harmonic and super-harmonic responses [7, 8] produced by employed parameters obtained from the preliminary system identification procedures have been compared to experimental data (e.g., see Figure 1). The numerical results are found to be in reasonable agreement in general with experimental observation [9, 10]. It is anticipated that better agreements may be achieved when more sophisticated system identification procedures are developed to pinpoint the parameters of the systems in the sensitive response regions.

For the deterministic test runs, frequency response diagrams reflect nonlinear relationships between wave excitations and system responses of the moored buoy experiment. Stability regions of primary and secondary resonance in the diagrams are estimated (dashed lines in Figure 2). Near the stability boundaries, bifurcations and coexisting response attractors are observed. Note that circles corresponding to the same excitation frequency in Figure 2 indicate various response amplitudes under identical excitation parameters. Sudden changes of response amplitude in the time histories are observed in the experiment (e.g., transition from small to large amplitude in Figure 3). This transition phenomenon is caused by two factors, namely, the presence of a weak tank noise and the coexistence of multiple steady-state responses. Identification techniques are being employed to estimate the system parameters to fine-tune the investigation of the (co) existence of higher order nonlinear responses, including sub-harmonic, ultra-harmonic, quasi-periodic and chaotic ones. The basis and implication of orderly, timed transitions between coexisting multiple attractors of different response amplitudes of the surge motion of the moored-buoy system of deterministic test runs are being investigated.

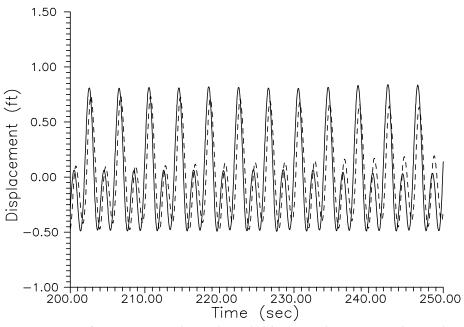


Fig.1: Comparison of experimental result (solid line) with numerical simulation (dashed line)

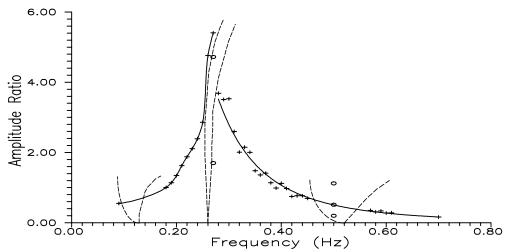


Fig.2: Frequency response diagram (experimental results); ---- estimated stability boundaries

For stochastic experimental test runs, random perturbations are found to bridge coexisting response domains. Combined response characteristics are observed in a typical response time history (e.g., Figure 4). Excitation perturbations in the experiment are categorized as additive band-limited noise and slow variations in amplitude and frequency (narrow-band). Effects on response characteristics due to each type of perturbation and their differences are being examined. Comparisons of analytical predictions [8, 10] and experimental results in the perturbation-induced intricate transition behaviors (inter- and intra-domains) are being examined.

A precursory examination of the complex, possibly chaotic, nonlinear responses on a limited number of cases also indicate reasonable agreement between numerical predictions and corresponding experimental results. Detailed comparisons of the analytical and numerical predictions and

experimental results using a variety of geometric and numerical techniques will be conducted later in this research.

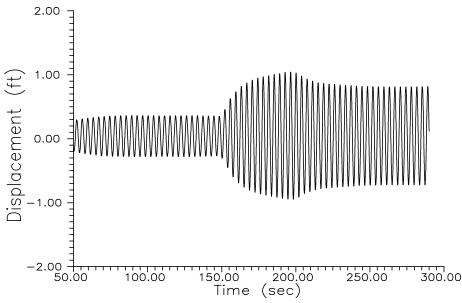


Fig.3: Transition from small amplitude response to the coexisting large amplitude

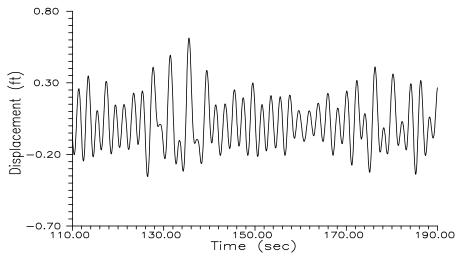


Fig.4: Perturbation-induced interactions between coexisting harmonic and sub-harmonic responses

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

The nonlinear response superstructure [8] together with the timed nature of the transitions shown above, if found to be an invariant (deterministic or stochastic) feature of the complex responses, would give hope that reliable extreme value and cumulative fatigue predictions of these responses may be possible. Completion of the analysis of the SDOF and MDOF experimental data may provide sufficient information for the development of a unified analytical procedure to predict the long-term extreme value distributions and fatigue failure probabilities for the design of nonlinear, dynamically sensitive ocean structural systems.

TRANSITIONS

Some techniques developed in this research project have been found useful, and others are being applied in other disciplines. Specifically, the stochastic analysis techniques in the probability and time domains have been applied by contractors of NFESC (Port Hueneme) to analyze the nonlinear stability and capsizing probability of Naval transport barges.

RELATED PROJECTS

This research project complements those supported by other ONR programs on the study of physical systems and/or reliability of nonlinear ocean structures and hydrodynamics. There are significant cross fertilization of ideas and development/implementation of numerical techniques on nonlinear stochastic and chaos analyses between this project and those under hydrodynamics, mathematical sciences, physics and other programs. This research may eventually benefit higher category programs when the resulting unified analysis methodology can be employed in the design of Naval ships, barges, platforms and other special structures.

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